



*Achieving and growing together*

# Spring 1 Newsletter 2023



Thank you to all our children and families for being so supportive to the school and staff throughout this Spring Term. It's been a pleasure to welcome so many parent volunteers and visitors to the nursery to enrich our Curriculum for children and families this half term.

## **What's been happening at nursery?**

### **Lunar New Year celebrations**

This half term, we have been continuing to learn and explore global festivals and celebrations held across the world. The children have explored Lunar Festivals, focusing specifically on Chinese New Year. Children have been engaging in dragon dancing, Chinese symbols and number exploration with local artist Xue Wang. Children also explored a range of Asian cuisine in our Chinese banquet and tasted new foods and textures with staff and friends.



### **Forest School**

This half term, Claire (Early Years Educator and Keyworker) has been leading Purley Nursery Forest School with a small group of children and volunteering parents. Claire has worked in partnership with Ali (Wednesday's Lead Teacher) and Christ Church School to create four week block sessions using our Federation Partner's (Christ Church School) outdoor learning site 'The Spinney'. Both children and volunteers have loved it and the learning skills developed through this provision are fantastic. Children's creativity, autonomy and independence through this initiative is staggering and we are so proud that we are able to provide this for children.



Currently we are not able to provide this enrichment for every child however we would very much like to increase this provision to enable us to take children who attend in the afternoon sessions.



If any parent/ carer is interested in supporting us in doing this, please can you email [head@purley.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:head@purley.croydon.sch.uk). Any new volunteer would need to have capacity to volunteer their time on Wednesday afternoons 12.30pm-2.30pm on a weekly basis (term time only). We look forward to hearing from you!

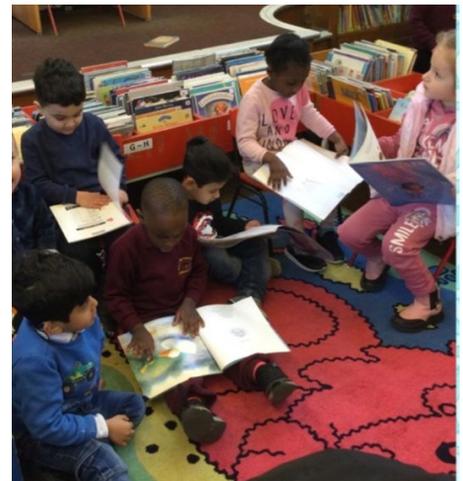
### Local Community Trips

In addition to this, Maria (Lead Teacher) has organised a variety of local trips for children to visit places in our community to enhance the learning carried out in the nursery classroom. Our recent trip to O Farol was linked to the children's interests and learning with our roleplay cafe. Children got to experience first hand meeting a real waitress, being taken to a table and offered menus. They also had to be patient and wait for their order to be delivered to them and explore a real menu with their friends. Children and volunteers had great fun and were extremely impressed with the children's manners and behaviour in the restaurant. Staff were very proud to see children ordering and tasting new flavours and drinks that were on offer. The 'green' and 'ginger' drinks were a great hit!



### Purley Library

Finally, we have had the pleasure of visiting Purley Library twice this half term to attend a rhyme time session with a group of children. The children loved exploring new picture books and titles with supporting adults and their peers.



### Coffee Mornings at Purley Nursery School



This half term we have welcomed parents and carers to join us in the Parents Room for a range of short informal sessions to support parental involvement and child development. These have included:

- How to support your child in toilet training - led by Julie in The Nest
- Forest School at Purely Nursery School - led by Polly and Claire
- Seesaw drop ins - led by Polly
- Storytime for a two year old - Led by Julie in The Nest

The feedback from these sessions has been great and I would encourage parents and carers to join us for the next upcoming sessions to learn more about child development and how you can get involved in our school. Next half term, we would like to invite you to the following new coffee mornings from **9.00-9.30am**:

- **Thursday 2nd March** - How to support your child develop their independence and self help skills.
- **Thursday 16th March** - How to support your child develop their literacy skills in Early Years
- **Thursday 23rd March** - What is an ROA? How can I contribute to it to celebrate my child's learning?

## Helicopter Stories at Purley Nursery School

Rikta (Early Years Educator and Keyworker) has been leading our creative storytelling initiative Helicopter Stories for children in nursery. Children across the nursery and The Nest provision have been sharing their creative imaginations and ideas to formulate their own stories using the Helicopter Stories hat. The children then enjoy acting out their stories with their friends to bring their characters to life. The children and staff are very proud of the creative vocabulary and story phrases used by the children to create their stories and the enthusiastic character acting adopted for the range of story characters created. Here are a few for you to enjoy:



Jacey-May's Story - 3 years old

"Once upon a time, there was a troll. There was a big monster. And then there were people looking at us. There was big five monsters everywhere. Then there was five mummy spiders. Then there was people, spiders and Mummy! That's the end."



Freddy's Story - 3 years old

"Spiderman killed the Dinosaur. Then he saw Venom and then he is a good guy Spiderman. After Spidegirl came to the good guy. Then they went home and made webs on their own."

Alexander's Story - 3 years old

Baby bear went to the moon. He has a picnic. He eat apples, milk and cornflakes. He went back to his house. He took the owl with him. Say goodbye"

Faith's Story - 3 years old

"A was fighting with Z while Z was writing something beautiful. D was even playing sand. E was trying to play with G on the slide. Y and X was eating something. Now that's the end."

This initiative allows children the freedom to explore language freely and apply their knowledge and experiences of stories they have heard and enjoy. Ask your child if they have created a Helicopter Story recently or see if they can tell you a story at home?

## Attendance

Just a reminder that if your child is away from school for any reason please let Louise or Julie in the office know. You can phone (020 8660 5639) or email ([office@purley.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:office@purley.croydon.sch.uk)).

As a Local Authority School, we are expected to monitor attendance and note on registers the reasons for absence. This attendance/absence data is requested by the Local Authority, the Department for Education and Ofsted. We have a duty to contact you if you have not informed us already that your child is absent - for any reason. Please, therefore, do contact us as indicated above as it is very time consuming to 'phone families if you have not contacted us.

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## Drop off and collection times

Thank you to all families for being so prompt and supportive of our collection/ drop off times.

Nursery sessions times are as follows: **8.30-11.30am - 12.30-3.30pm**

All children are expected to attend their full nursery session and arrive on time. In recent weeks we have noticed that children are arriving considerably late for their nursery session. Please can parents be mindful that late arrival may contribute to their child missing out on learning opportunities planned in the classroom. To support good routines and habits before transitioning to Primary School, we encourage parents and carers to make every effort to not be late.

In the event of an emergency or prior appointment, please contact the school office so that we can take this into consideration when planning activities in the classroom.

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## Travel management at drop off and collection times

Drop and collection is managed through our space indicators in the main entrance and through the support of our children and families. This is to ensure child safety and reduce the numbers of adult and children in the main entrance foyer at one time. During these chilly months, we appreciate that getting ready to leave nursery may take a little time, especially if children have hats, gloves, scarves etc. You can support your child and us to aid collection times by helping and encouraging your child to be independent with dressing and collecting these winter items at the end of session as swiftly as possible. In addition, if you wish to speak to a member of the nursery team, please make an appointment or use the messaging option on Seesaw. It is not possible for staff to speak to all parents at the end of the day however we do encourage parent partnerships as much as possible. If you are unsure or have any concerns about your child, please speak to Polly or Maria.



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## Purley Nursery School Breakfast Club

To support working families in the morning with drop off routines, Purley Nursery School can offer Breakfast Club care for children from 7.45am Monday to Friday. All children attending Breakfast Club are welcomed by Julie in The Nest and are offered a healthy breakfast and play to enable them to have a happy, calm start to their day.

### Prices:

- **7.45am** - to the start of their nursery session - **£4.25 per day**
- **8.00am** - to the start of their nursery session **£3.00 per day**

If you would like to enquire further about this provision ready for January please contact Julie in the school office on **0208 660 5639**.

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## Home-School Library

Purley Nursery School's Home School Library has been a great success for children this half term. Parent volunteer Katie, has enjoyed exploring picture books and texts with the children every Friday signing in and out books through our 'real life Library experience' offered. Developing positive attitudes towards reading is crucial at this age and we wish to foster and nurture it through lots of positive, rich experiences in our book area. If you or any member of your family wish to come into Nursery to assist the nursery team or Katie in the home school library please let us know.

We encourage all children to join our Home-School Library so if you haven't signed up please speak to Julie or Louise in the office so we can issue you with a plastic wallet (£1) or order you a Purley Nursery Book bag (£4.50).

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## Seesaw

Seesaw has been a great success this half term and it is great to see children engaging in home learning activities and sharing new experiences with nursery staff and their friends. If you have not downloaded Seesaw to access your child's journal and the activities set by Maria and the team please speak to a member of the nursery team or contact the school office.



Please note that Seesaw activities are non compulsory and we encourage families to 'tap in' as and when they can to support their understanding of early learning and development.

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## **Nursery Clothes**

Please check at home to see whether you might have any clothes belonging to the school. We'd be pleased if you could return them to us as soon as possible.

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## **Snack and Cooking - VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION**

To enable the children to have a daily healthy fruit snack during the session and for the children to experience cooking activities each week, we are asking parents to make a voluntary contribution of £1 per week or £13 per term to help towards the cost. We rely on these donations to do this. If we do not receive enough contributions to do this we may need to reduce snack and cooking opportunities in the nursery. If you would like to make a donation please put it in our 'fruit collection bucket' by the school office.



Thank you for all your contributions for this half term!

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## **Craft Donation Request**

Children are developing their creative skills well across our nursery environment and demand for replenishing craft resources is high! We are asking families to donate items that the children can use for their creative work during their nursery session. Please collect and bring in:

- Ribbons
  - Buttons
  - Lining paper
  - Wallpaper
  - Old greetings cards
  - Kitchen towel rolls ( No toilet rolls thank you)
  - Wrapping paper
  - Old notepads
  - Craft paper
  - Plastic bottle tops
  - Cardboard boxes (unsoiled and in good condition)
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## **Doors and Gates** - *Gentle reminder*

Please ensure all green and yellow entrance and exit gates are closed after you to keep all the children safe **AT ALL TIMES**. Please don't leave them open for the person behind without seeing them in.

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## **Safeguarding children and families**

**Our new safeguarding policy is on the school website:**

<https://www.purleynurseryschoolcc.com/>

**It's important for our school community to be vigilant about safeguarding children and families. If you have any concerns about a child or family or wish to speak to someone in confidence please do not hesitate to speak to our Designated Safeguarding Leads, Polly, Maria and Kelly. Alternatively, contact the school office and they can arrange for you to receive a confidential phone call to support you.**

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## **What is Mental Health**

We all have mental health. Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods. Looking after our mental health is important. We all have 'small' feelings every day. These sometimes feel strong and overwhelming, whether happy or sad, but they go away before too long. Sometimes we experience 'big' feelings: These feel strong and overwhelming for a long time. They stop us doing what we want to in our lives. How can I help my child's mental health?

- Make conversations about mental health a normal part of life: Anywhere is a good place to talk; in the car, walking the dog or cooking together. Model everyday talk about feelings such as by talking about a TV character's feelings.
- Give your full attention: We all know it's horrible to be half listened to. Keep eye contact, focus on the child and ignore distractions.
- Check your body language: Try to keep it open and relaxed and make sure you come down to the child's level.
- Take it seriously: Don't downplay what the child is saying or tell them they're "just being silly". Resist the urge to reassure them that everything is fine.
- Ask open questions: Such as "How did your day go today?" This will help to extend the conversation.
- Offer empathy rather than solutions: Show that you accept what they are telling you but don't try to solve the problem.

- Remember we are all different: Respect and value the child's feelings, even though they may be different to yours.
- Look for clues about feelings: Listen to the child's words, tone of voice and body language.
- Some ways to start a conversation about feelings might be: "How are you feeling at the moment?" "You don't seem your usual self. Do you want to talk about it?" "I'm happy to listen if you need a chat."



## SIX TOP TIPS

For Parents To Keep Your Children Safe Online

Children and young people are bound to spend lots more time on devices since Covid. **DON'T FEEL BAD** – lots will be schoolwork or healthy ways of catching up with friends or having fun. There are many ways to keep them safe, healthy and happy.

### Don't worry about screen time; aim for screen quality

Scrolling through social media isn't the same as making a film or story, or Skyping Grandma. Use the Children's Commissioner's 'Digital Five A Day' to plan or review each day together.



### Check the safety settings are turned on

Whether it's your home internet, mobile devices, consoles, apps or games, there are lots of settings to make them safer. The key ones are - can they chat to strangers, can they video chat or 'go live', are their posts public? **Internet Matters** has hundreds of guides to parental controls.



### Get your children to show you their apps and games

You don't need to know all about the latest app or game, but if your child shows you what they are doing and with whom, you'll probably see if it's appropriate or not. Remember 18 games are not more advanced – they are harmful to children! For parent guides to apps, including recommendations for kidsafe apps and video platforms, search for **Common Sense Media** or **NSPCC's NetAware**. And why not download the **BBC Own It** app?



### Don't try to hide news about scary things in the news

If you don't talk about it, your children might read inappropriate pages, believe scare stories or simply catastrophise in their heads. Why not watch **Newsround** together and talk about how they feel – there is guidance from **Childline** to help you.



### Remind them of key online safety principles

There are too many to list, but remember human behaviour is the same online and offline. Remind your children to be a good friend, to ask for help if they are worried or if someone is mean, not to get undressed on camera and most important of all... if somebody tells them not to tell or ask for help because it's too late or they will get in trouble, **THAT'S A LIE!**

### If you aren't sure, ASK!

Your school may be able to give you advice, but there are plenty of other places to ask for help as a parent or a child, whether it is advice or help to fix something. Lots of sites are listed at [reporting.lgfl.net](https://reporting.lgfl.net), including ones to tell your kids about (they might not want to talk to you in the first instance).



## **A message from our Chair of Governors Sally Marvin**

Letter from the Chair of Governors Spring Term 1 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

There are certain occasions in the life of a Purley Partnership Federation governor which are especially rewarding and memorable. One such event is when we have the opportunity of attending a time of Collective Worship at Christ Church School. This half term, Lucinda Hasell, our literacy link governor at CCS, was able to attend an amazing reading assembly - she was truly impressed with the children's performances. Likewise, Gill Visser, our governor who is responsible for overseeing the Christian ethos of CCS, had the great pleasure of attending a Collective Worship session led by the Vicar of Christ Church, Doug McHardie. He based his talk on the first word of the school's Vision 'Together', and with the assistance of a selection of the children, emphasized that, although we are all very different individuals, we all work together to ensure that our school is a happy, safe and inspiring place where everyone belongs.



Working together is so important for a PPF governor, not just with each other as a member of the governing board team, but also with members of CCS and PNS staff too. As the PNS website states: 'Purley Partnership Federation is therefore a true partnership as governors and school staff work to secure the interests of the schools together'. PPF governors always welcome the opportunity of meeting with members of both schools' staff to further this mission.

Thus we were delighted to have the opportunity in January to attend a pre-Ofsted training session with some of the PNS staff members led by the Head of School, Miss Jones. She reminded us of what the inspectors will be looking for when they carry out their inspection sometime in 2023. The main recommendation included in PNS's last Ofsted report in 2018 was that the school should build on and develop its links with Christ Church School with whom it had been recently federated. At our Ofsted training session, we discussed this topic and it was most encouraging to record the many ways that the two schools now work together: Mrs Dighton teaching one day a week in each school; PNS children spending time in CCS's Forest School area; PNS staff attending Early Years INSET at CCS e.g. phonics training; Breakfast Club provided for CCS pupils by PNS staff at CCS; After School Club run by PNS staff for CCS children from Reception to Year 2 at PNS.

At the end of January, the PPF Curriculum Committee was very pleased to welcome Mrs Newman (1NM) who is the Literacy Lead teacher at CCS and Mrs Lawrence (6L) who oversees all the data at CCS to their meeting. Both teachers gave the most informative and encouraging presentations in their specialist field.

As a team of governors, we each have our specific interests and skills which we bring to the governing board, working together to ensure that both CCS and PNS are the best schools they

can be. We are always sad to say goodbye to governors who leave us but equally delighted to welcome new members who join the board. As I mentioned in my last letter, we were very pleased to welcome Vanessa Sefa as our Safeguarding governor in December 2022, and a short bio of Vanessa can be found below. Vanessa replaces Sam Harper-Allen who left us in September 2022. We are very grateful to Sam for her contribution to the PPF governing board: her expertise in the safeguarding field was invaluable and her dedication to the role of governor exemplary.

In the Bible, the apostle Paul writes in his letter to the church in Rome:

*'For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.'*

Paul was referring to the 'body' of the church, working together as a united entity. In the same way, PPF governors, staff, parents and carers aspire to work together in unity for the benefit of our wonderful children at CCS and PNS.

May I wish you a very restful half term break.

Best wishes

Sally Marvin

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### VANESSA SEFA - GOVERNOR SHORT BIO

With a passion for education, I am a Senior Leader in a Secondary Academy in Croydon. I have a specialist focus on reading which I use to invest great effort into embedding equality, diversity and inclusion opportunities in reading as a means to diversify the curriculum. Alongside this, I run an education research social media platform, EducationCubed, through which I share news, research and resources from the world of education and social mobility.

As a PPF governor, I am keen to establish a symbiotic relationship with a primary school, to learn, share and develop knowledge in a bid to driving up standards, enhancing the education for all of our students. I am the designated Safeguarding Governor, and I will endeavour to ensure that both schools within the federation continue to provide a safe and secure environment for all members of our PPF community.



**Purley in Bloom** <http://purleyinbloom.co.uk/>

Purley Nursery School is proud to support Purley in Bloom and is planning on welcoming members to join us on Saturday 4th March to carry out some maintenance of our communal areas, vegetable patch and plant pots around the school. All members of our school community are invited to come and join us to help make our school ready for spring! Come and let a member of the school office team know if you would like to attend.

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### **Final note**

Purley Nursery Staff would like to thank you again for all your support and dedication this Spring 1 Term. We recognise the impact that the 'cost of living crisis' and increased energy bills have had on our community and wish to reach out to any family who is struggling. Please contact the school so we can help in whatever way we can.

Staff and I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Spring half term and we will look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 20th February.

Best wishes to you all

Polly Jones

Head of School  
Purley Nursery School

# **TERM DATES – 2022/23**

## **Spring Term 2023**

**Spring 1 – Open Wednesday 4th January – Close Friday 10th February at normal  
time**

**Spring 2 – Open Monday 20th February – Close Friday 31st March at normal time**

## **Summer Term 2023**

**Summer 1 – Open Tuesday 18th April – Close Friday 26th May at normal time**

**Summer 2 – Open Tuesday 6th June – Close Friday 21st July at normal time**

**Please note:**

**Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May 2023**

**Staff Training (subject to change)**

**Monday 17th April 2023**

**Monday 8th May 2023**

**Monday 5th June 2023**

**These dates are subject to change.**